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**Consumer Price Index
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI CMSA
November 2001**

Falling prices on a wide range of consumer goods and services in November led to a 0.4 percent decline in the Chicago area Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). This setback follows a 0.9 percent drop in October and marks the fourth decline in local retail inflation in the past six months. The November CPI-U for the Chicago area was 177.4 (1982-84=100). Over the past year, consumer prices rose only 0.8 percent. This was down from a 4.0 percent hike in the previous 12 month period and annual gains averaging 2.4 percent in the preceding five year period (1995-99).

Price cuts were widespread, causing declines in five of eight major expenditure categories, according to Regional Commissioner Peter J. Hebein. Sharply declining gasoline prices had the largest impact, accounting for most of the overall decline. Lower price tags on grocery food and apparel were also important factors. Small declines were noted in the recreation and the education and communications components but had little impact on the overall index. The housing and medical care components recorded moderate increases over the month while the other goods and services component posted a small gain.

Table A. Percent Changes in the CPI-U, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI
(not seasonally adjusted)

(not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure Category	Changes from preceding month							12 mo. ended Nov. '01
	2000	2001						
	Nov.	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	
All items	0.3	-0.3	-0.8	0.2	0.9	-0.9	-0.4	0.8
Food & beverages	-.6	.2	.1	-.2	.2	.7	-1.1	2.7
Housing	.6	.1	-.1	.1	-.2	-.7	.6	.5
Apparel	.1	-2.9	-4.3	1.6	4.3	-.5	-3.8	-10.5
Transportation	1.1	-2.0	-4.0	1.4	3.2	-3.9	-1.8	-2.5
Medical care	0	.7	0	.1	.3	.3	.5	5.3
Recreation	-.6	.1	.3	.2	-.1	.6	-.2	9.0
Education & communication	.5	-.1	-.1	0	.7	.3	-.4	2.0
Other goods & services	.7	1.5	1.8	-2.5	2.6	-.1	.1	5.3

The transportation component fell 1.8 percent due to a large 15.6 percent drop in gasoline prices in November. This large decline comes on the heels of a larger 20.0 percent drop in October. Over the past 12 months, gasoline prices fell 18.3 percent, returning to price levels last seen two years ago. The overall transportation component fell 2.5 percent over the year, down from annual gains averaging 3.8 percent over the previous two years.

Falling grocery food prices were largely responsible for a 1.1 percent drop in the food and beverages component. The food at home index fell 2.0 percent as lower price tags were found on such items as poultry, beef steaks, and potatoes. Lower prices on beer and wine were responsible for a 1.5 percent decline in the alcoholic beverage index. The cost of food away from home edged-up 0.2 percent. Over the year, the food and beverages component rose 2.7 percent, almost matching the 2.4 percent average annual increase over the previous five years.

The housing component advanced 0.6 percent due mostly to a 11.6 percent hike in utility natural gas costs and a 0.4 percent gain in the shelter index. The increase in utility gas costs was the first since January of this year and follows 9 consecutive monthly declines totaling 62.0 percent. As a result, utility natural gas costs remain 43.5 percent below their year-ago level. Electricity costs were unchanged in November and were 5.2 percent below their level a year ago. The November rise in the shelter index matches the average monthly gain in the first 10 months of 2001 and leaves the index a healthy 4.7 percent above its year-ago level. The overall housing component rose only 0.5 percent in the past 12 months, down from a 6.4 percent annual rise a year ago. The sharp slowdown in the annual housing component was due to declines in the cost of household fuels, especially natural gas and electricity.

Apparel costs fell 3.8 percent in November. Sale prices were noted on women's dresses and men's suits, sport coats and outerwear. Over the year, the apparel component fell 10.5 percent. This follows a small 0.4 percent annual gain a year earlier.

The medical care component rose 0.5 percent as higher hospital service charges were noted. Medical care costs rose 5.3 percent from November 2000. This was more than double the 2.5 percent annual rise in the previous 12 months and compares with annual gains averaging 3.5 percent annually over the prior 5 years (1995-99).

The recreation component declined 0.2 percent from October but was up 9.0 percent from a year ago. The education and communication component fell 0.4 percent over the month and was up 2.0 percent from a year ago. The other goods and services component increased 0.1 percent in November. Over the past 12 months, the component increased 5.3 percent. This was up from a 3.3 percent gain a year earlier.

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Scheduled release date for the December 2001 CPI:
Wednesday, January 16, 2002

CPI HOTLINE SERVICE PROVIDES LATEST INDEXES 24 HOURS A DAY

The all items CPI-U and CPI-W for the U.S. City Average and for the Chicago area are available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Bureau's CPI Hotline service. This recorded message also provides percent changes from the prior period and from a year earlier as well as the scheduled release date for the next CPI issuance. The Hotline number in Chicago is (312) 353-1880, menu option 2.

BLS FAX-ON-DEMAND SERVICE OFFERS CPI DATA 24 HOURS A DAY

If you have a fax machine and a touch-tone telephone, you can order current and historical CPI data and receive it within minutes by fax. The BLS Fax-on-Demand service offers over 280 documents containing the most popular BLS data including more than 65 documents containing CPI data for the nation, four regions, and 30 metropolitan areas. To receive by fax a catalog of documents available on the service, call 312 353-1880, select menu option 1, and when prompted, order document 1000.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPI's for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 50,000 housing units and approximately 23,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index. Prices of food, fuels and a few other items are obtained every month in all 87 location. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the three largest geographic areas and every other month in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classes, and for 26 local area. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities, they only measure the average change in prices for each base period.

The index measure prices changes from a designated reference data - 1982-84 that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65.

For further details see the BLS Handbook of Methods, Bulletin 2490, April 1997, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2000	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001
Expenditure category						
All items	179.7	178.1	177.4	0.8	-1.3	-0.4
All items (1967=100)	536.8	532.2	530.0	-	-	-
Food and beverages	176.9	178.2	176.2	2.7	-.4	-1.1
Food	176.1	177.4	175.5	2.9	-.3	-1.1
Food at home	184.9	186.3	182.6	2.8	-1.2	-2.0
Food away from home	160.9	162.1	162.5	3.2	1.0	.2
Alcoholic beverages	187.5	188.4	185.6	-1.0	-1.0	-1.5
Housing	180.8	179.5	180.6	.5	-.1	.6
Shelter	220.2	220.9	221.8	4.7	.7	.4
Rent of primary residence ¹	218.2	218.8	219.6	5.7	.6	.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	227.2	228.6	230.8	5.6	1.6	1.0
Fuels and utilities	119.6	108.6	113.2	-24.5	-5.4	4.2
Fuels	106.4	94.9	99.7	-28.1	-6.3	5.1
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	108.9	97.0	102.0	-28.3	-6.3	5.2
Electricity ¹	115.9	102.0	102.0	-5.2	-12.0	.0
Utility natural gas service ¹	101.7	91.9	102.6	-43.5	.9	11.6
Household furnishings and operations	112.9	111.5	110.5	-2.7	-2.1	-.9
Apparel	108.0	107.5	103.4	-10.5	-4.3	-3.8
Transportation	154.1	148.1	145.5	-2.5	-5.6	-1.8
Private transportation	150.8	145.0	142.0	-2.4	-5.8	-2.1
Motor fuel	159.0	127.3	107.5	-18.3	-32.4	-15.6
Gasoline (all types)	157.8	126.3	106.6	-18.3	-32.4	-15.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	157.9	126.6	103.9	-19.3	-34.2	-17.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	167.3	133.6	113.4	-17.9	-32.2	-15.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	153.6	123.5	105.9	-18.7	-31.1	-14.3
Medical care	273.6	274.4	275.7	5.3	.8	.5
Recreation ⁵	108.8	109.4	109.2	9.0	.4	-.2
Education and communication ⁵	113.3	113.6	113.2	2.0	-.1	-.4
Other goods and services	283.4	283.1	283.3	5.3	.0	.1
Commodity and service group						
All items	179.7	178.1	177.4	.8	-1.3	-.4
Commodities	150.7	148.0	145.5	-1.6	-3.5	-1.7
Commodities less food and beverages	134.4	130.0	127.2	-4.3	-5.4	-2.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	149.5	140.9	133.7	-7.1	-10.6	-5.1
Durables	115.8	115.7	117.4	-.9	1.4	1.5
Services	207.6	207.0	208.0	2.4	.2	.5
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	175.1	173.5	172.7	.5	-1.4	-.5
All items less shelter	166.5	164.0	162.7	-1.2	-2.3	-.8
Commodities less food	136.8	132.5	129.7	-4.1	-5.2	-2.1
Nondurables	163.9	159.9	155.2	-2.0	-5.3	-2.9
Nondurables less food	152.4	144.1	137.1	-6.7	-10.0	-4.9
Services less rent of shelter ²	203.7	201.7	202.9	-.2	-.4	.6
Services less medical care services	201.9	201.3	202.3	2.2	.2	.5
Energy	126.9	107.1	101.6	-24.0	-19.9	-5.1
All items less energy	186.8	187.2	187.0	2.7	.1	-.1
All items less food and energy	189.4	189.7	189.9	2.8	.3	.1

¹ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

² Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

³ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.